

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

C1 SUB G1 23. (amended) A method for anchoring a joining element in a part consisting of porous material, the joining element including a thermoplastic material at least at the location of a preselected anchoring point, the method comprising the steps of:

forming a bore in the part, the bore having an inner closed end and being matched to the shape and dimensions of the joining element so that the joining element can be inserted into a first position in the bore with substantially no force,

positioning the joining element in the bore in the first position,

applying pressure to force the element into a second, deeper position in the bore, the pressure being applied substantially along a central axis of the bore and producing an increase of pressure at the preselected anchoring point between the joining element and walls of the bore,

during the application of pressure, applying energy to the joining element to cause the thermoplastic to plasticize at the preselected anchoring point, the pressure causing the plasticized thermoplastic material to flow into pores of the part adjacent the bore, thereby forming a macroscopic anchoring connection between the part and the joining element.

C2 SUB G1 26. (amended) A method according to claim 23 including joining a second part made of a porous material to the first mentioned part with the joining element, wherein the joining element is a joining pin having a reduction in diameter intermediate the ends thereof forming a shoulder, wherein the step of forming a bore includes forming a portion of the bore through the second part and into the first part to an inner closed end, the bore in the second part having a reduction in diameter matching the reduction in diameter of the joining pin, and the step of positioning includes inserting the joining pin into the first and second parts with the shoulders of the joining pin and bore in contact to define the first position, the contacting

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shoulders forming a second macroscopic connection between the second part and the joining element.

C2
27. (amended) A method according to claim 23 including joining a second part made of a porous material to the first mentioned part with the joining element, wherein the joining element is a joining pin, wherein the step of forming a bore includes forming a portion of the bore through the second part and into the first part to an inner closed end, and wherein the joining pin has an enlarged head portion on an outer end thereof.

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23. (amended) A method according to claim 23 wherein the part comprises wood or a woodlike material.

C4
35. (amended) A method for anchoring a joining element in a structural component having a cavity or in which a cavity can be produced by pressure, the joining element including a thermoplastic material at least at the location of a preselected anchoring point, the method comprising the steps of:

forming a bore in the component with the bore having an inner closed end so that the joining element can be inserted into a first position in the bore with substantially no force,

positioning the joining element in the bore in the first position,

applying pressure to force the element into a second, position in the bore, the pressure being applied substantially along a central axis of the bore and producing an increase of pressure at the preselected anchoring point between the joining element and the bore,

during the application of pressure, applying energy to the joining element to cause the thermoplastic material to plasticize at the preselected anchoring point, the pressure causing the plasticized thermoplastic material to flow into one or more cavities of the component, thereby forming a macroscopic anchoring connection between the component and the joining element.